

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A three valve filter element support is used in a filter cartridge in which the filter cartridge includes an annular filter element within a housing closed by an end plate having a central opening surrounded by an array of radial openings spaced a fixed radial distance from one another. The three valve filter element support a unitary body having an annular sealing lip for sealing with the end cap of the filter element, which sealing lip deflects under oil pressure providing a first valve to allow oil to bypass the filter element if the filter media of the filter element is clogged. The second valve is a dirty side anti-drainback valve that is provided by a radial flange projecting from the unitary body, which radial flange overlies the spaced radial openings and prevents unfiltered fluid from flowing back out of the spaced radial openings when not under pressure. When the fluid is under pressure, the radially projecting flange deflects away from the array of radial openings, allowing oil to flow past the flange, into the housing and through the filter element. The third valve is a clean side valve aligned with the hollow core of the annular filter element to prevent drainback of clean oil and to prevent refilling of the filter cartridge with used or unfiltered oil.